

tions, adopt standards for the protection of such communications, information, or sources.

(Pub. L. 101-379, § 10, Aug. 18, 1990, 104 Stat. 477.)

CHAPTER 31—NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES

Sec.	
2901.	Findings.
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CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in title 20 section 7902.

§ 2901. Findings

The Congress finds that—

(1) the status of the cultures and languages of Native Americans is unique and the United States has the responsibility to act together with Native Americans to ensure the survival of these unique cultures and languages;

(2) special status is accorded Native Americans in the United States, a status that recognizes distinct cultural and political rights, including the right to continue separate identities;

(3) the traditional languages of Native Americans are an integral part of their cultures and identities and form the basic medium for the transmission, and thus survival, of Native American cultures, literatures, histories, religions, political institutions, and values;

(4) there is a widespread practice of treating Native Americans¹ languages as if they were anachronisms;

(5) there is a lack of clear, comprehensive, and consistent Federal policy on treatment of Native American languages which has often resulted in acts of suppression and extermination of Native American languages and cultures;

(6) there is convincing evidence that student achievement and performance, community and school pride, and educational opportunity is clearly and directly tied to respect for, and support of, the first language of the child or student;

(7) it is clearly in the interests of the United States, individual States, and territories to encourage the full academic and human potential achievements of all students and citizens and to take steps to realize these ends;

(8) acts of suppression and extermination directed against Native American languages and cultures are in conflict with the United States policy of self-determination for Native Americans;

(9) languages are the means of communication for the full range of human experiences and are critical to the survival of cultural and political integrity of any people; and

(10) language provides a direct and powerful means of promoting international communication by people who share languages.

(Pub. L. 101-477, title I, § 102, Oct. 30, 1990, 104 Stat. 1153.)

¹ So in original. Probably should be “American”.

SHORT TITLE

Section 101 of title I of Pub. L. 101-477 provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Native American Languages Act’.”

§ 2902. Definitions

For purposes of this chapter—

(1) The term “Native American” means an Indian, Native Hawaiian, or Native American Pacific Islander.

(2) The term “Indian” has the meaning given to such term under section 2651(4)¹ of this title.

(3) The term “Native Hawaiian” has the meaning given to such term by section 4909¹ of title 20.

(4) The term “Native American Pacific Islander” means any descendent of the aboriginal people of any island in the Pacific Ocean that is a territory or possession of the United States.

(5) The terms “Indian tribe” and “tribal organization” have the respective meaning given to each of such terms under section 450b of this title.

(6) The term “Native American language” means the historical, traditional languages spoken by Native Americans.

(7) The term “traditional leaders” includes Native Americans who have special expertise in Native American culture and Native American languages.

(8) The term “Indian reservation” has the same meaning given to the term “reservation” under section 1452 of this title.

(Pub. L. 101-477, title I, § 103, Oct. 30, 1990, 104 Stat. 1154.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 2651 of this title, referred to in par. (2), was repealed by Pub. L. 103-382, title III, § 367, Oct. 20, 1994, 108 Stat. 3976. For provisions defining “Indian” for purposes of Indian education programs, see section 7881 of Title 20, Education.

Section 4909 of title 20, referred to in par. (3), was repealed by Pub. L. 103-382, title III, § 363, Oct. 20, 1994, 108 Stat. 3975. For provisions defining “Native Hawaiian”, see section 7912 of Title 20.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in title 20 sections 7402, 7601.

§ 2903. Declaration of policy

It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice, and develop Native American languages;

(2) allow exceptions to teacher certification requirements for Federal programs, and programs funded in whole or in part by the Federal Government, for instruction in Native American languages when such teacher certification requirements hinder the employment of qualified teachers who teach in Native American languages, and to encourage State and territorial governments to make similar exceptions;

(3) encourage and support the use of Native American languages as a medium of instruction in order to encourage and support—

¹ See References in Text note below.